

FADE IN

We hear classical music playing in the Street of an elegant upper class neighborhood. It is early morning and the sun has not yet emerged. The townhouses are well kept and elegant. The street lamps are serene and picturesque as they line the cobbled street. The music seems to float along the lifeless street. It becomes louder as our eyes climb to reach glowing second floor bedroom light illustrating the only sign of life on the block. The music becomes more profound as we enter the bedroom window. The harmony dances along the walls of the stylish bedroom. Works of art are hung on walls as if in a museum. The bedroom furniture are sturdy pieces made from the finest wood. The dresser is tall and a mirror hangs sophisticatedly over it. On the dresser is a pair of black leather gloves neatly placed together? An I pod is set to the right of the gloves and to the left is a sketch pad. A silver plated tissue box sits near the other objects. Each object was placed exactly five inches apart to the delight of the occupant. We see on the large bed a handsome man about thirty-five years old sitting and expertly polishing his black wing tip shoes. Seth James appearance is impeccable and without flaw.

His black dress pants and white collared shirt are without a hint of a wrinkle. He looks down at his shoes until he is satisfied with the shine and places them on his feet with a shoe horn. Seth stands and walks to a nearby chair that contains a black leather briefcase on it. He pauses for a moment and stares at the briefcase. He glides his hand on the briefcase. He tenderly touches the buckles. Seth breaks from the hypnotic trance and continues with dressing. He walks to the dresser. He takes three tissues from the box and uses the tissues to open the dresser drawer. Seth takes a brush out from the dresser and combs his thick black hair. He studies his face for any flaw but finds none. He smiles at himself. Seth places the brush back into the drawer and closes the drawer with the tissues. He grabs his I pod from the dresser and places the ear pieces in his ears. The music becomes louder. He grabs his black jacket from a nearby chair and puts it on. He grabs the pair of gloves and slips them onto his soft hands. He walks to the briefcase and firmly takes the handle and walks out of the room.

EXT. STREET EARLY MORNING

Next we see Seth walking out of his town home to a waiting car. The classical music follows him. The driver is waiting with the trunk open. Seth pays no attention to the humanity of the driver and with great care places the briefcase in the trunk of the car. The driver shuts the trunk and quickly walks to open the door for Seth. Seth slips inside the car. The driver shuts the door and quickly takes the driver seat. We see the car drive away from the curb.

INT. CAR EARLY MORNING

Next we see Seth sitting the back of the car. His eyes are closed and his head rests on the back of the seat. On Seth's face we can see the emotion of the music. Each note is felt by each line on his face. His breath becomes deep as notes reach a higher intensity. Seth is becoming more and more seduced by the power of the composition. Just at moment when he about to surrender to the melody, we hear the RING of his cell phone which's returns him to reality. Seth removes the ear pieces from his ears. The sound of the music becomes muted.

SETH

(Coolly)

Hello...I am on my way..

Seth looks outside the window and watches the city starting to come to life.

INT. PRESENT DAY BUILDING

Seth is walking down a long hallway with two soldiers on each side of him. Seth is clutching his briefcase.

INT. OFFICE

The men enter an office were the GENERAL sits behind a desk. The two soldiers salute him and General returns the salute. They quickly leave Seth and the General alone. Seth sits in a chair and carefully places his briefcase next to him. The General has a bad cold. Various cold medicines are scattered on the desk. The general grabs a tissue from a box and blows his nose loudly. The general motions for Seth to sit.

SETH
(looking annoyed and uneasy)
When did you catch him?

GENERAL
(Wiping his nose and
carelessly placing the used
tissue on the desk)
About two hours ago.

SETH
(Backing away in his chair
and trying not to look at
the tissue)
Did you find his wife with him?

GENERAL
(Annoyed)
Do animals like him have families? He
shot one of my men. But we returned the
favor.

SETH
Is he badly hurt?

GENERAL
Unfortunately it wasn't fatal. My soldier
wasn't so lucky.

The General grabs a bottle of medicine and takes a big
gulp. He coughs and wipes a dribble from his mouth.

SETH
(Uncomfortable)
I am very sorry.

GENERAL
The doctor is with him now...Damn non
scanners. We should have cleaned up that
mess long ago...I know you have history
with this guy but I hope the bastard gets
what he deserves.

Seth nods in agreement. The general takes another tissue
and again blows his nose.

SETH
(uncomfortably placing his
hand across his face trying
to block the flow of germs)
Maybe you should go home.

GENERAL
(Laughing)
Mr. James. I am in the military. We don't
get to call in sick.

SETH
Has he said anything to you?

GENERAL
He refuses to say anything to anyone...
We thought you could get something out of
him.

SETH
(getting up)
Yes.

GENERAL
(getting up)
We Know he's involved with the store
bombing. We have him leaving the store on
tape.

SETH
(walking out the door)
I want to see him.

INT. HALLWAY MOMENTS LATER

Riley is waiting by the door.

GENERAL
(following Seth)
Riley, will take you to him.

SETH
(backing away from the
General)
Yes, General. Thank you.

RILEY
(To Seth)
This way sir.

Seth nods and starts walking with Riley.

SETH
(whispering to Riley)
Is there a rest room near by?

REILLY
Right up here sir.

INT. RESTROOM MOMENTS LATTER

Seth is alone in the restroom. He is at the sink washing his hands vigorously. The steam from the hot water fog the mirror. Like a surgeon, Seth skillfully lathers the soap and then rinses. Again Seth repeats his skill.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM

We see Seth looking through a one-sided mirror into an intergation room.

INT. INTEGRATION ROOM

Soldiers bring in MICHAEL and roughly sit him in a chair. He is about thirty five. He looks as if it's been weeks since he had a haircut or a shave. His hands are cuffed and there are chains around his ankles. His face is pale and thin but his eyes are piercing. The soldiers quickly leave the room.

MICHEAL
(shouting)
I have done nothing wrong! I have done nothing wrong!

Micheal calms and begins to look at the mirror. He seems to sense Seth's presence.

MICHAEL
(looking into the mirror)
You know I done nothing wrong.

INT. OBERVATION ROOM

Seth studies Michael from his hiding place. Captain walks into the room.

CAPTAIN
(Looking at Michael)
What do you think?

Seth shrugs his shoulders.

SETH
Any trace of his wife?

CAPTAIN
Not as of now. She couldn't have gotten
far. We'll find her.

SETH
You will find them... Any news comes in,
I want to know right away.

CAPTAIN
I'll make sure of it.

INT INTERROGATION ROOM DAY

Seth walks in the room were MICHAEL is being held.
Michael who is handcuffed, plays with a pen that was left
on the table. Michael sees Seth and carefully places the
pen in the center of the table.

SETH
(placing his briefcase down)
You knew it was only a matter of time
before we caught you.

MICHAEL
(Smiling)
We?.

SETH
(To guards)
Leave us alone.

Guards leave

MICHAEL
(To Seth)
What are you doing here Seth? What in the
hell is happening?

SETH
I want to help.

MICHAEL
(unimpressed)
Sure you do.

SETH
(sincerely)
I am your friend... I need the file.

MICHAEL
Why did you ask them to leave? I know
they are watching.

A guard walks in and sets a file in front of Seth. Seth and Michael remain silent. The guard leaves. Seth looks through the file. The uncomfortable silence is broken by Seth taking the pen and tapping it.

SETH
Look Michael, this is pretty serious.
They are charging your with domestic
terrorism.

Michael starts squinting his eyes and rubbing his head hard. His hands carelessly slip through his hair and land on the table with a loud THUD.

MICHAEL
(Breathing Deeply)
I know what I am charged with... Does it
matter?

SETH
You don't think it matters.

MICHAEL
No.

SETH
Michael, I can help...Were did your
friends go?

MICHAEL
Friends? My Friends?

SETH
We know some got away.

MICHAEL
You tell me were they are?

SETH

Where's Maryann? Where did they go?

MICHAEL

(Relieved)

You don't have her? I don't know. I can't say.

SETH

(Unbelieving)

If you tell me where they went. I can help them.

MICHAEL

(Unbelieving)

You help them?

Michael adjusts himself in the chair.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Tell me something.

SETH

What can I tell you.

MICHAEL

(Defiant)

Why in the hell is someone from the department of education questioning me?

SETH

(Writing in the file)

That attitude is not going to help you.

Michael knocks Seth's pen out of his hand.

MICHAEL

You can write anything you want on that paper but it won't make it true.

SETH

(Picking up his pen)

Truth. Should we have a conversation about truth, Michael? Your group has bombed a store. Your group opened fire on US soldiers killing one of them. Is that true enough for you.

MICHAEL
(Laughing)
My Group?

SETH
You find this funny?

MICHAEL
I do.

Michael shakes his head in disbelief.

MICHEAL
(calmly)
I never bombed any store but I think you
know that already. As far the soldier.
Well, that couldn't be helped.

Micheal leans back in the chair.

MICHEAL (CONT'D)
(Calm)
You didn't answer my question.

SETH
I don't need to answer questions of a
terrorist.

Micheal rolls his eyes and laughs.

MICHEAL
What is true Seth do you even know
anymore? We used to be friends.

SETH
(upset)
I am still trying to be your friend!

MICHAEL
(reaching for Seth hands)
If your my friend you'll stop looking for
Maryann.

SETH
(pulling from Micheal's grip)
I can't do that. I have to follow the
law.

MICHAEL

I thought you were my friend Seth! I thought that was true!

SETH

Truth is what ever we decide it is.

MICHEAL

(With tear stained eyes)

Do you really believe that Seth? If that what you believe then you write what you want to write. You tell them what you want to tell them. I didn't realize I was talking to God.

SETH

(Smiling)

I came to make you an offer.

MICHAEL

I don't want any offers . I know my rights and I want A trial. I want a lawyer.

SETH

Micheal.

MICHAEL

(Angry)

I told you I want a lawyer!

SETH

(Getting up from the table defeated)

You'll have your trial.

Seth grabs his briefcase and walks over to the door.

MICHAEL

(Calling Seth back)

Seth!

Seth turns to Michael.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(Feeling the table with his fingers)

Do you remember the last time we sat at a table together?

SETH
(somber)
Yes. I remember.

INT MICHAEL'S HOME MONTHS EARIER

We see Seth standing outside a apartment door. He is holding a bottle of wine. Seth rings the doorbell.

MICHAEL
(Opening the door and hugging
Seth)
Seth! You son of bitch. How are you?

SETH
Good. I'm good.

MICHAEL
(Excited)
Come on in.

We see a MARYANN waiting to greet Seth. Maryann is a pretty twenty eight year old woman.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(To Seth)
This is Maryann.

MICHEAL
(To Maryann)
This is Seth James. My best friend in school and the best flag football player ever.

MARYANN
(Shaking Seth's hand)
It's very nice to meet you.

SETH
It's great to meet you Maryann. I brought you this.

MICHAEL
(Grabbing the bottle of
wine.)
Maryann is two months pregnant. But I can still have this.

SETH
(surprised)
You are going to be a dad.

MICHAEL
Ya. Any day now. Isn't it great?

MARYANN
(Rubbing her stomach)
We have a few months to go.

SETH
They will go by pretty fast. I imagine.

MICHAEL
(To Seth)
Come on to the dining-room. Dinner's waiting. I hope you're hungry?

MARYANN
He made enough to feed an army.

SETH
You cook now?

MICHAEL
(Ushering Seth to the table)
Yes. I'm just full of surprises.

INT MICHEAL'S HOME HOURS LATER

The three have just finished eating dinner. They are surrounded by dinner dishes and wine glasses.

MICHAEL
We only had one play left in the game. I had one chance left so I threw the ball to Seth. Seth catches the ball and just dives over guys. Risking his life and his whole political future.

Seth breaks out into loud laughter.

SETH
(cupping his hands to his mouth)
Touch down.

The three laugh together.

SETH (CONT'D)
(Showing his perfect front
teeth)
I chipped my two front teeth on that
play.

MICHEAL
(Shocked)
I didn't know that.

SETH
Sure did. I cracked them on Tommy
Bleacher's right knee.

MICHAEL
I remember that guy.

MARYANN
Hey, I thought it was flag football?

MICHAEL
(Laughing)
Well sure. But sometimes things got a
little crazy. We were teenage boys.

SETH
(Laughing)
That's why we weren't on the school
football team.

MICHAEL
If we had been. We would gone all the way
to state.

SETH
Sure we would have.

MICHAEL
(Laughing)
We would have.

MARYANN
(Laughing)
Pocket protectors and all. Right.

MICHAEL
(Playfully)
I never wore a pocket protector.

SETH
I think I might have.

MICHAEL
Now that I remember it. I think I did
too.

Laughter dies down

SETH
So, are you going to tell me the story
about you two or not?

MARYANN
The story is simple. It was the
nightingale affect. He was my patient.

SETH
You're a nurse.

MARYANN
Hygienist.

MICHAEL
She spent so much time cleaning my teeth
she decided to marry me.

MARYANN
Well, I don't know if it was like that
but he was very charming.

MICHAEL
About six months ago we flew to Las Vegas
and made it official.

MARYANN
He didn't give me time to think.

MICHAEL
(To Seth)
I didn't want to give her time to change
her mind.

SET
That's Michael always doing things all of
a sudden.

MICHAEL
Not like you. Everything is planned well
in advance.

MARYANN

I can't even imagine you two in high school.

SETH

Complete opposites.

MICHAEL

But we got along. Seth was always trying to keep the wayward grandson of the governor out of trouble.

SETH

Trying.

MICHAEL

(To Maryann)

I think he thought it was his job... Anyway, my grandfather was so grateful he gave Seth a job after College.

MARYANN

(To Seth)

Your working for Senator Rollins now.

SETH

Well I worked for Senator Rollins. Now I am heading up a project at the department of education.

MICHAEL

Ya, I heard that. What are you doing there?

MARYANN

It must be some important work.

SETH

I think so.

MICHAEL

I always thought you run for something.

SETH

Why run when you can be appointed.

MICHAEL

I thought it was your dream to run.

SETH

You know how life is. You find new dreams. Besides working with your grandfather opened my eyes to how important education is.

MICHAEL

(To Maryann)

The whole reason I went to the public high school was my grandfather. I always thought it was a political stunt.

SETH

It wasn't a stunt... He really believed in public education...He was a good man.

MICHAEL

(Uncertain)

Was he?

SETH

You know he was.

MICHAEL

I don't think I learned the same lessons from my grandfather that you did.

SETH

What lessons did you learn?

MICHAEL

What lessons did you learn from him?

Both not wanting to answer the questions remain silent for a few moments. Seth eyes survey the apartment.

SETH

(To Michael)

And you how is the newspaper man?

MICHAEL

(Thoughtful)

Things are good.

MARYANN

(getting up and starting to gather dishes)

Hey, why don't the two of you go relive your glory days. I'll do dishes.

MICHAEL
 (To Maryann.)
 Honey, I'll do dishes.

MARYANN
 (To Michael)
 Sure you will. Really, go with Seth.

MICHAEL
 (To Seth)
 Well, are you up for it old man?

SETH
 I am. If you are.

EXT. PARK EVENING

Seth and Michael throwing the ball to each other in the park.

SETH
 (Tired)
 Wait, Let's take a break.

MICHAEL
 Not As young as you thought, hey.

SETH
 (Breathing hard)
 Definitely not...Maryann is great.

MICHEAL
 (Walking over to Seth with
 the football)
 Ya I know. I am really lucky to have her.
 What about it? Any Mrs. James in the
 works?

SETH
 My work is number one right now.

MICHAEL
 I've heard... So, what is this project?

SETH
 Off the record?

MICHAEL
 Of course.

SETH

It's collaboration with the department of defense.

MICHAEL

What kind of collaboration could the department of education have with the department of defense?

SETH

You would be surprised.

MICHEAL

Surprise me.

SETH

Oh, There's the journalist I know and love.

MICHAEL

Look Seth, there are a lot questions about the whole thing. I heard the it has to do with the non scanners. Does it?

SETH

I didn't come here for the third degree.

MICHAEL

Why did you come. I haven't heard from you in years. Hell, the last time I saw was at my grandfather's funeral.

SETH

I just wanted to see you again. We used to be like brothers

MICHAEL

That was a long time ago. Seth.

Michael and Seth walk together a few steps.

SETH

How are things at the paper?

MICHAEL

(Placing his hands on his head and stretching)

I don't know... Things are fine.

SETH
I hear things too.

MICHAEL
(Surprised)
Wow, you hear things about me?

SETH
I hear you been having problems, is all.

MICHAEL
(Smiling)
I don't have a problem. My editor might.

SETH
Maybe you should tone down you articles .
It might help.

MICHAEL
(Shocked)
Who would it help?

SETH
You. It would help you.

MICHAEL
I haven't done hard news for weeks. I am
officially on the dog and pony show
circuit.

SETH
Maybe that's for the best.

MICHAEL
Still trying to keep me out of trouble.

SETH
Always... Just ease up a little.

MICHAEL
Ease up? Are you asking me not to do my
job?

SETH
(Patting Michael on the
back.)
Of course not. Do you job. We want you to
do you job.

MICHAEL

We?

SETH

I just think you should try to be fair.

MICHAEL

Fair? What the hell does that mean?

SETH

Your writing seems a little unfair is all. We think.

MICHAEL

(Interrupting)

There again with the we. Who is we?

SETH

Look, your articles could be classified as a little radical.

MICHAEL

Come on! Radical! Just because I don't think the sun rises and falls in Washington. I'm no radical... Is this why you came to dinner tonight?

SETH

Don't be crazy. This is America. Things like that don't happen here.

MICHAEL

Seth, when you start treating politicians like gods. Guess what, they start behaving as if they are gods.

SETH

I don't think you're a radical... I'm just looking out for you! Just ease up a little... For Maryann and the baby's sake.

MICHAEL

(Upset)

Don't tell me how to take care of my family!

SETH

Look maybe I said it wrong... I am your friend... You know. I am just worried about you.

MICHAEL

(Calming down)

Ya, I know.

EXT. PARK MOMMENTS LATTER

A woman comes running out of the darkness. Her clothes are torn and blood is running down her forehead. She runs up to Michael and Seth.

WOMEN

(screaming)

Help! Help Me!

The woman grabs onto Michael and clings to him.

WOMAN

(breathless)

I been attacked.

SETH

(dialing his cell phone.)

Ma'am, I am calling the police.

WOMEN

(looking into Michael eyes.)

It was one of those non scanners! I just know it! He pulled me to the ground and!

The woman breaks down.

EXT. PARK MOMENTS LATTER

The police are finishing interviewing Seth. An ambulance is taking the women away. Michael surveys the scene in disbelief.

COP

Thanks Mr. James. This is becoming more and more common. Non scanners. Something needs to be done.

MICHAEL

Are you sure it was a non scanner?

SETH
The woman said it was.

MICHAEL
But are you sure?

COP
(Convinced)
It was a non scanner.

MICHAEL
How do you know?

COP
We all know what they are like.

MICHAEL
I am sorry, I don't know what they are like. Please tell me.

COP
Are you kidding me?

SETH
Thank you officer. I just think my friend is in shock.

COP
OK, Mr. James. It was great to meet you.

SETH
And you.

Seth ushers Micheal away from the scene.

EXT. STREET NIGHT

MICHAEL
What was that?

SETH
Come on. You can't pretend you don't know about the affects the non scanners are having on the Country. There is a lot of resentment building.

MICHAEL
The country is on the verge of economic collapse.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

There is a spike in crime rates. And we need something or someone to blame.

SETH

It happens to be a fact that since the tent cities went up. Crime went up. Not to mention the financial strain.

MICHAEL

Yes, of course. It's always about the money.

SETH

What ever you think about these people it doesn't excuse attacking a woman.

MICHAEL

No... You're right.

SETH

Something must be done. For their sake and ours.

MICHAEL

(Uncertain)

What?

SETH

Hey, what's going on with you?

MICHAEL

I was thinking about interviewing some of the people in tent city.

SETH

Why?

MICHAEL

To get the story.

SETH

What story? It's dangerous in tent city.

MICHAEL

Dangerous?

SETH

It can be... Michael, be careful about this.

MICHAEL
(walking away)
I will.

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Maryann is in bed reading a book. Michael walks in.

MARYANN
(Closing Book)
Did you have fun?

Michael lays next to her looking troubled

MARYANN (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

MICHEAL
(Caressing her cheek)
A woman was attacked in the park.

MARYANN
Oh my god. Is she OK

MICHAEL
As OK as she can be, I guess.

MARYANN
Did they catch the guy?

MICHAEL
No. The woman said it was a non scanner.

MARYANN
I can't believe it...I hope they catch
him.

MICHAEL
Your missing the point. The woman said it
was a non scanner.

MARYANN
You don't think it was?

MICHAEL
I don't know what I think.

MARYANN
(Playful)
You so serious.

MICHAEL

I can't help that. That's who you married.

MARYANN

(Caressing Michaels lips.)
Yes, that's who I married.

MICHAEL

(Changing subject)
Do you need anything?

MARYANN

I think your baby needs something.

MICHAEL

(Playful)
Gosh, he's demanding. What does he want?

MARYANN

She wants ice cream.

MICHAEL

I'll get him some. Is it in the freezer.

Maryann playfully shakes her head no.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Store?

MARYANN

Yes, please.

MICHAEL

(Getting out of bed)
All right. I'll be back.

INT. STORE NIGHT

We see Michael in a checkout line holding a carton of ice cream. He grabs a magazine and flips through the pages as he waits his turn. There are two people ahead of him in line an older woman and a teenager. The teenager is holding three cans of beans. The teenager looks unkept. The woman ahead of him is staring at him. The teenager tries to escape her gaze.

CLERK
 (getting the women's
 attention)
 Ma'am, Your total comes to twenty-five
 fifty.

WOMAN
 (turning to clerk)
 Oh yes.

The woman places her thumb on a scanner. The scanner
 makes an accepting sound.

CLERK
 (giving the woman her
 receipt.)
 Thank you ma'am. Come again.

Micheal's attention turns to the teenager. The teenager
 places the cans on the counter. He drops a can on the
 floor. The clerk looks annoyed with the boy. The teenager
 quickly picks up the can trying to not look at the clerk.
 The clerk checks him out.

CLERK (CONT'D)
 Your total is three twenty one.

The teenager nervously hands her a twenty dollar bill.

CLERK (CONT'D)
 (Annoyed)
 You know I can't take that.

TEENAGER
 Please, take it. You can keep the change.
 Please.

CLERK
 (Angry)
 I can't take that! You'll have to be
 scanned.

TEENAGER
 Please, just take the money.

CLERK
 I can't do that. It's against the law. If
 you won't be scanned you'll have to
 leave.

TEENAGER
 (nervous and upset)
 OK,OK I'll be scanned.

The teenager places his thumb on the scanner. The scanner makes an unaccepted sound.

CLERK
 (surprised)
 Your not scanning?

TEENAGER
 (nervous)
 Something wrong with your scanner!

CLERK
 There's nothing wrong with the scanner.
 Your off the gird. Your off line! Get out
 of here right now!

MICHAEL
 (To clerk)
 Hey, Can't you just take the money?

CLERK
 (To Michael)
 It's illegal to sell to non scanners. I
 don't make the laws.

The teenager drops the cans on the ground and runs out of the store. Michael looks stunned. A few awkward moments pass.

CLERK (CONT'D)
 (to Michael)
 You want the ice cream or not?

MICHAEL
 (reluctant)
 Ya.

Michael checks out.

EXT. OUTSIDE STORE NIGHT

We see Michael walking outside but he stops cold in his tracks. Two cop cars are in the parking lot. The officers have the teenager handcuffed and putting him in a car.

TEENAGER

(Crying)

What, did I do?

OFFICER

Now, calm down.

TEENAGER

I was just trying to buy food.

Michael looking disturbed walks to his car and drives away.

INT. NEWS ROOM DAY

We see Micheal at his desk in the news room. He is typing away at his computer. His phone is at his ear.

MICHAEL

(Into Phone)

Ya, I'll be there in about an hour.

Micheal hangs up the phone as he sees Robert walking past him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(Calling to Robert)

What did you think of my story idea?

ROBERT

(Walking over)

It's OK. Work on it. We'll see.

MICHAEL

I really think that it has legs.

ROBERT

Gee, I don't know about that. The department of education starts a new education program. So what.

MICHAEL

Reeducation. It's called the reeducation department. You're not the least bit curious about this whole thing.

ROBERT

Washington wastes money all time... There is no story here.

MICHAEL

No story? The government pours millions into this new department and nobody asks why?

ROBERT

It's education. How can you be against that... Work on it and maybe you'll find something.

MICHAEL

(Sarcastically)

Why thank you Robert.

ROBERT

I need someone to cover the event at the convention center.

MICHAEL

Ya, ya. Back to the dog shows.

ROBERT

Just do it.

INT. COFFEE SHOP

Michael stands in line waiting for his coffee. A staff member walks to the front window carrying a sign. She puts the sign in the window. Michael scans for his coffee and leaves.

EXT. STREET DAY

Michael walks out to the street. He turns to look at the coffee shop window. The sign reads no non scanners allowed. Michael stares at the sign .

INT. BREAK ROOM DAY

Maryann walks into the break room and sits at a table with two coworkers. Coworker one is reading a newspaper.

COWORKER ONE

Hi Maryann. How are you feeling?

MARYANN

I am feeling really good.

COWORKER TWO

I think pregnancy agrees with you.

COWORKER ONE

(Looking at newspaper)

Did you hear about the woman being attacked in the park.

MARYANN

Yes, I know about that. Michael.

COWORKER ONE

(Interrupting)

I don't know why they don't do something about those tent cities.

MARYANN

What should they do?

COWORKER ONE

I don't know. Tear them down or something.

COWORKER TWO

To think that our tax dollars goes to support them. It gets me so angry.

MARYANN

They are still people.

COWORKER ONE

People. I wouldn't call them people.

COWORKER TWO

Their more like animals. Can you imagine the way they live.

COWORKER ONE

There was a woman in my building. You know the type. She used to mumble to herself all the time.

INT. ELEVATOR DAY

An older woman is in the elevator carrying shopping bags. The doors open to see Coworker waiting. Coworker one looks angry as the older woman begins to walk off the elevator. The bags slip from the woman's hands and her groceries tumble to the ground.

The older woman works quickly to pick them up and leaves the elevator. Coworker one enters the elevator and quickly dials her cell phone.

COWORKER ONE

I would like to make a report.

INT. BREAK ROOM DAY

Back in the break room, coworker one face shows a slight look of guilt but it quickly fades.

COWORKER ONE

Then one day she was gone.

MARYANN

Where did she go?

COWORKER ONE

Who knows? But she didn't take a thing with her. All her belongings were just left in the street.

COWORKER TWO

Animals. Every last one of them. You know it's comes from poor development. They have a bad gene or something.

MARYANN

(In disbelief)

Of come on. That's crazy. Bad genes?

COWORKER ONE

Well, maybe it's not their genes. They weren't educated properly. They don't read the right things and it stunts development.

Maryann is shown with a uneasy look on her face.

INT. VITAMINE STORE

Seth walks into the store. It is filled with different vitamins and herbs. MR. CHEN is puttering behind the counter.

MR. CHEN

(Seeing Seth)

Ah, Mr. James. I have your usual, all ready for you.

Mr. Chen looks behind the counter and brings out a bag.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)

(Looking pleased)

Just as you asked, for.

Seth looks through the bag but looks displeased.

MR. CHEN (CONT'D)

(Concerned)

Is there something wrong? It is all you asked, for?

SETH

Yes, It's all here... Do you have anything else

MR. CHEN

(Confused)

I am sorry?

SETH

Something else. I been taking all this for years with no significant improvement. Do you have something that works better? Do you have some thing stronger?

MR. CHEN

What are you asking for?

SETH

(Angry)

I what to live.

MR. CHEN

These vitamins and herbs all improve longevity and motor function.

SETH

(Annoyed)

I can read backs of bottles. Mr. Chen.

MR. CHEN
(uncomfortable)
I am not sure what you are asking me for.

SETH
All the pills and powders you sell have
limits.

MR. CHEN
(Nervously)
Limits? I'm sorry, Mr. James. I don't
understand.

SETH
(smiling and leaning on the
counter)
Of course you don't.

MR. CHEN
Vitamins and herbs help you live
healthier and longer.

SETH
Longer? Yes, Of course. I'll take it.

MR. CHEN
(Relaxed)
These are the very best. Mr. James. You
can be sure of that.

Mr. Chen takes out a scanner and offers it to Seth. Seth
places his thumb on the scanner.

INT. BAR DAY

We see Micheal walking into a sleazy bar. Micheal looks
out of place in his dress pants and buttoned down shirt.
He gets odd looks from the patrons but Michael seems not
to notice. He walks to a table where a slightly
overweight man of forty sits. The mystery man is dressed
similar to Micheal. He nervously breaks peanut shells in
his thick fingers. He greedily places the naked nuts on
his tongue and gulps them down. He sees Micheal and a
look of relief comes over his face.

MYSTERY MAN
(jumping up and wiping his
hands on his pants.)
You found the place.

MICHAEL
(shaking the man's hand)
Ya, I found the place.

MYSTERY MAN
Well sit down... You want a beer?

MICHEAL
(Sitting down.)
Sure.

MYSTERY MAN
(Motioning to the bartender)
Hey, two beers.

The bartender nods.

MYSTERY MAN (CONT'D)
(Sitting back down)
I was afraid you wouldn't come.

MICHEAL
Well, I came.

The bartender walks over and places two beers on the table. The man nervously smiles at him. The bartender only glares and walks away.

MYSTERY MAN
(nervously)
I got worried you weren't coming.

MICHEAL
Hey, Calm down.

MYSTERY MAN
Yes.

MICHEAL
You have information for me?

MYSTERY MAN
First of all your not going to tell anyone where you got this information, right? I just want to make that clear. No names. Right?

MICHEAL
I protect my sources. You can be sure of that.

MYSTERY MAN

You just never know, who you can trust anymore.

The mystery man takes a gulp of beer. A dribble comes down his chin. He quickly wipes it with the back of his hand.

MYSTERY MAN (CONT'D)

Have you noticed the tent city in the park?

MICHEAL

Sure, who hasn't. A lot of non scanners.

MYSTERY MAN

Have you noticed anything about them?

MICHEAL

What should I've noticed?

MYSTERY MAN

The simple fact that the people living there are not exactly the bums of yesterday. They are people. Real people!

EXT. TENT CITY

We see several shacks and tents hastily put up together. Tent City is a city for the homeless. People of all ages and races are living together.

MICHEAL V.O

(Confused)

I hear there are of a lot people living off the grid now.

We See Children running together along the paths of tent city. A man, dressed in rags is trying to repair the roof of a shack with scraps of wood. A woman is preparing a meager meal over an open fire.

INT. BAR DAY

We are back in the bar.

MYSTERY MAN

Ya man, That's exactly what I mean. They are off line, man. Off Line. But why?

MICHEAL

(Confused)

I don't know. They want to live as outsiders. They don't like the idea of the scanners.

EXT. TENT CITY

We see DOC POLLY. He is a man about sixty years old with an air elegance about him. Doc sees a child fall and walks over to him. Doc quickly bends down to the child. Doc examines the child's knee. Doc smiles and brushes the dirt off and sends the child on his way.

MYSTERY MAN (V.O.)

That's what everyone seems to think but is that the truth. Just ask your self why would a person choose to live that way. Without being scanned you can't buy anything. You can't hold a job. You can't live anywhere but in tent city. No one would choose that, man! No one.

INT. BAR DAY

MICHEAL

I don't know. Some people are different.

EXT. TENT CITY

We see Doc walking through the paths of tent city. He waves to the man fixing the roof of a shack.

MYSTERY MAN (V.O.)

Ya, Man their different alright... Are they so different? All I know is that they were at one time like us. Construction workers,

We see Doc walking past another ragged men kneeling in prayer near his tent.

MYSTERY MAN (V.O.)

(CONT'D)

Minsters,

We see Doc walking into his tent. He lies down on the dirty blankets on the ground. He huddles himself in them. We see next to Doc is a worn-out leather doctor's bag.

MYSTERY MAN (V.O.)

(CONT'D)

Doctors. You name it.

INT. BAR DAY

We now see Micheal and the Mystery man back in the bar.

MYSTERY MAN

What ever. They got up in the morning. Went to work and came home to their houses. Then someone pushes them off the grid and they end up in tent city.

MICHEAL

(Intrigued)

Wait a minute. What do you mean pushed off the grid?

MYSTERY MAN

I mean what I said. Pushed off. Someone decides that they don't like the way a person thinks or believes. Someone decides that your dangerous. That there is something different about you and they push you off.

MICHEAL

Who pushes them off? Who would do that?

The glares at Micheal and says nothing.

MICHEAL (CONT'D)

How can something like that happen. The press would be all over that story.

MYSTERY MAN

Oh, man! The press doesn't care about these people. The press will fall for a lie, just like everyone else.

MICHEAL

How is it done? Is it the government?

MYSTERY MAN

I don't know all the details but it's not just the government, man. It's the whole damn country. It's a collective group think. We all start thinking the same and then we start acting the same. And we make the rules. We make it up as we go. That's when monsters are born.

MICHAEL

What does the department of education have to do with all this?

MYSTERY MAN

That the funny thing about all of this, Man. Who doesn't support education, right? If you don't want to give money to the department of education you're some kind of ogre. So it works like this. All the congress says sure man I want to give money for more education. A new department of reeducation. Yes, I am all for that. It'll look good back home if I sign up for that. This is a good way we can help all those people who fell through the cracks. We reeducate them. The public buys it because all we are doing is educating, man. Educating... What no one talks about is who exactly are we educating. What happens to people who can't be educated.

MICHEAL

What happens to them?

MYSTERY MAN

That's the question, man. That is the question.

MICHAEL

(Looking at his watch)

This all sounds like science fiction. Do you have proof? Documents or something?

MYSTERY MAN

Documents. No I don't have documents.

MICHAEL

(Playing with his bottle)

I need more... Go public.

MYSTERY MAN

Hell, no! I am no hero, man. I like my life. I don't bother anyone and no one bothers me.

MICHAEL

Why tell me any of this, then.

MYSTERY MAN

We all know when something is wrong. Even if we lack the courage to stop it.

Micheal gets up to leave.

MYSTERY MAN (CONT'D)

(Taking hold of Micheal's arm)

I am telling you the truth.

MICHAEL

(breaking from the man's grip)

What is the truth? Just because you say it's true doesn't make it true. I need it written down... If you have anymore information let me know.

MYSTERY MAN

(defeated)

Sure.

Micheal starts walking away.

MYSTERY MAN (CONT'D)

(Calls micheal back)

Remember man, science fiction starts with one idea in one person's head. One person can change the world, man.

Micheal nods and leaves the bar.

EXT. Street Moments later

Michael is coming out the door of the bar. Across the street a storefront is being boarded up. A cop is overseeing. A man hammers the boards to the store window. The owner is upset and starts to argue with the police.

STORE OWNER

This is not right! I have had this store
for years!

COP

(holding the owner back)
We have to follow the law.

OWNER

(defeated)
This is just not right!

COP

It's the law.

OWNER

(backing away)
It's not Right.

The owner rubs his head. He sits on the curb and watches the man as he finishes closing the store. The man pastes a sign on the front door. The owner watches the branding with tears in his eyes. The sign reads, Closed due to use of illegal tender.

INT. DOC'S SHACK

Doc Polly is huddled in the blankets when he hears a man's voice.

MAN O.S

(shouting)
Trucks coming!

Doc wakes from his rest and quickly gets up and walks out the front door.

EXT. TENT CITY

Doc watches as two big trucks come into tent city. The people of tent city began to swarm around the trucks. As the trucks come to a stop Doc walks over to the driver side window.

DOC

Did you bring any medicine this time? I
have a lot of sick people here.

SOLDIER

I bring what they tell me to bring.

The soldier exits the truck and starts to walk to the back of the truck. Doc follows. The other soldiers start to unload the supplies.

DOC

Could you tell them that we need medicine?

SOLDIER

(annoyed)

Look, Old man. You're lucky you get the stuff we bring you. I don't take requests. If they tell me to bring medicine. I bring medicine. If they don't. I don't

DOC

(getting in front of the soldier)

The supplies just don't last. More people come every day.

SOLDIER

That's not my problem. And maybe you people should of thought that before you became non scanners. Now Get out of my way. I have work to do.

The soldier walks away from Doc.

SOLDIER (CONT'D)

(to his men)

Come on boys. Let's hurry this up. The sooner we're out of here the better.

EXT. STREET DAY

We see Maryann and Michael walking along the street in front of a apartment buildings. Michael is holding shopping bags.

MICHAEL

This is going to be the best dressed kid in the state.

MARYANN

She better be.

Interrupting the couple's happiness is a disturbing scene. Two men are bringing out furniture and setting it out on the street. A young woman carrying a small child is screaming at the two men.

YOUNG WOMAN

Why are you doing this? What have we done?

The small child starts to cry. The two men ignore the young woman. The woman tries to talk to the men but she gets no response.

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

Where are we going to live? How can you do this to people?

Maryann and Michael stop. They watch the chaos.

INT. Michael's apartment

Maryann and Michael walk into their apartment. The couple is noticeably shaken by the scene they have just witnessed. Michael drops the shopping bags carelessly. Maryann sits on a chair. She is in a daze.

INT. ART MUSEUM DAY

Seth is sitting on a bench. He is looking at the art hung on the wall. Seth sketches in his sketch pad. Michael walks over to him and sits down.

MICHAEL

I thought, I might find you here.

SETH

(without looking at Michael)
You found me.

MICHAEL

I tried at your office. That place is harder to get into than Fort Knox.

SETH

(drawing)
What do you want Michael?

MICHAEL

I want to know what's going on. Something is happening in this country that I'm at a loss to explain.

SETH

How can I help with that?

MICHAEL

You see, Seth. I have a hunch you know more than anyone what's going on.

SETH

You and your hunches.

MICHAEL

I see strange things happening. I see stores being shut down. I see people being thrown out of their homes. And I can't help but ask, why.

SETH

You know why. It's the law.

MICHAEL

That is a strange thing about laws. They can excuse a lot.

SETH

Life is all about choices. People have to be able to accept the consequences for the choices they make.

MICHAEL

What if this is not their choice

SETH

(stops drawing and turns to Michael)

There are things which the average citizen need not understand... There comes a time in every man's life when he must decide which side he is on... Even if the intellectual side of himself tells him it is not necessary to choose a side. He has already chosen... But everyone chooses.

MICHAEL

I think I choose the other side.

SETH
And so there it is.

Seth calmly returns to his drawing and Michael gets up and walks away.

INT.INTERAGATION ROOM

We see the teenager handcuffed and sitting at table. Seth walks in the room and sits his briefcase on the table. A guard stands off to the side.

TEENAGER
(Frightened)
Are you a cop?

SETH
(Sitting down)
No I'm with the department of
reeducation.

Seth removes a sketch pad from his briefcase and begins drawing the teenager's face.

TEENAGER
(Smiling)
I guess you know I didn't finish school.

SETH
(Relaxed)
Yes, I know.

TEENAGER
What are you writing down?

Seth shows the teenager the drawing.

SETH
Do you like art?

TEENAGER
I don't know. Never, seen much of it.

Seth smiles as he continues with his drawing.

TEENAGER (CONT'D)
Why are you here?

SETH
(Without looking at the
teenager)
I know who you are.

TEENAGER
You know me?

SETH
(Looking up at the teenager)
You and your family have been living off
the grid for a while.

TEENAGER
You know that? I don't think you can call
what we been doing living... My dad just
comes home from work one day about a year
ago and tells us we can't live in our
house any more.

Tears start pouring down his face.

TEENAGER (CONT'D)
I am so mad at him , you know. He lost
his job and now we have to go to tent
city. I am just so pissed at my dad. How
could he let this happen. Why can't we be
scanned?

Teenager presses his head into his hands.

TEENAGER (CONT'D)
(Taking on his father voice)
There are things you don't understand.

Releasing his head.

TEENAGER (CONT'D)
(screaming in own voice)
What don't I understand dad! That your a
fucking failure! Your family is living in
tent city!

Wiping his nose with the back of his hand.

TEENAGER (CONT'D)
(Calmer)
Then six months later he just
disappeared. He's just gone.
(MORE)

TEENAGER (CONT'D)

All my mother does is cry and we are hungry all the time. My little brother is starving to death and my mother won't be scanned. The only thing we have left is this twenty dollar bill. But it's worthless because you have to be scanned. So I decide to take this money and buy food. All I wanted was to get some food.

SETH

(with no sympathy)

You have been accused of a serious crime. I'm here to help you.

Seth continues with the drawing

TEENAGER

(Wiping tears from his eyes)

How can you help?

SETH

I can make you an offer.

Putting the sketch pad off to the side

TEENAGER

Oh ya?

SETH

It's likely you'll have to go through a trial and you will be found guilty. The judge will sentence you to month or two in jail.

TEENAGER

(Interrupting)

A month or two. I don't want to go to jail!

SETH

I know you don't. That's were I come in. If you sign away you right to a trial and take a reeducation class. You can probably go home.

TEENAGER

(Eager)

Wait! You mean, all I have to do is take a class and you let me go?

Seth leans back in his chairs and lets out a deep sigh.
He smiles and nods yes.

TEENAGER (CONT'D)

Ya! I'll do that. I, can do that. What do
I have to sign?

The guard sets papers in front of the teenager. Seth
hands a pen to the teenager. The teenager eagerly signs.

SETH

Good. Very good.

INT. ROBERT'S OFFICE MORNING

Robert is sitting at his desk. Michael knocks on the open
door.

ROBERT

Come in. We have some things to go over
about the story.

MICHAEL

(Walking in)

I thought, I might go to tent city and
talk to a few people?

ROBERT

(looking unsure)

About that. I am giving the story to
Lena.

MICHAEL

(Upset)

Lena?

ROBERT

The guy that heads the department wanted
to talk to her instead.

MICHAEL

(Upset)

What! I know the guy. I grew up with him.

ROBERT

He asked for Lena.

MICHAEL

Unbelievable! Hey, my angle is different. Lena handles the department. I take the tent city people.

ROBERT

There is no story in tent city! Why do you want to go on pushing this.

MICHAEL

I thought, our responsibility was to the truth.

ROBERT

Come on Michael, Is there such a thing? There only different sides. You should know that... Who are your sources on this?

MICHAEL

You never asked me to reveal my sources before.

ROBERT

Forget the article...It's dead.

MICHAEL

There is a story here.

ROBERT

Look Michael, if you keep pushing this you leave me no choice. The paper's circulation is down and I have to cut one third of my budget.

MICHAEL

Am I, part of that one third?

Robert sighs deeply

INT. RESTURANT

Seth walks in resturant. The Hostess quickly organizes himself and is very attentive.

HOSTESS

Mr. James, It's so good to see you again.

SETH
(Handing his coat to the
hostess)
Is my table waiting?

HOSTESS
(Taking coat)
Yes, Mr. James. This way sir.

The hostess walks Seth to his table. Seth sits and the waiter quickly puts a drink in front of him.

SETH
(Without looking at anyone)
I am expecting a guest will you show her
to my table when she arrives.

HOSTESS
Yes, Mr. James

SETH
(To waiter)
Prime rib. Rare.

HOSTESS
(To waiter)
Make sure they know it's for Mr. James.

WAITER
Yes sir.

The waiter and Hostess walk away. LENA KELLY pushes her way over to Seth's table.

LENA
(Holding out her hand)
Mr. James, I am Lena Kelly. It's great
to meet you.

Seth Coldly takes Lena's hand and nods.

SETH
(Pointing to the chair in
front of him)
Sit.

Lena sits.

LENA

I just wanted to tell you that I am very grateful that you would speak to me. I know my readers will be very interested in the new department of reeducation.

The waiter places the prime rib in front of Seth.

SETH

(To Lena)

Would you like anything?

LENA

No thank you, but please go ahead. I know your a very busy man.

SETH

(Coolly)

Yes, I am a very busy man and I don't have much time to spend with you. So if you could kindly get to your questions.

LENA

(Taking out a notebook from her purse.)

Ah yes... Would you tell me something about the new department. It's goals perhaps?

SETH

(Cutting into the bloody meat.)

The goals are simple. It is to help all people of this nation to come to a new enlightenment. You see Ms. Kelly, we have come to a time in history when all our problems can be solved. Hunger, poverty, hate, war, gone. Imagine, a world of complete peace and perfection. Without flaw.

LENA

It sounds like a dream.

SETH

Dream. No reality. But what has been keeping us from this reality?

Lena shrugs her shoulders.

SETH (CONT'D)

Ourselves. There are parts of ourselves that are afraid of a new world. These parts must be stripped from us to reach our potential. We decide our destiny and it's important that all citizens come to realize this fact. Education is the only way we can succeed in this endeavor and the department of reeducation will help in this process.

Seth swallows a piece of meat.

LENA

(enthralled)

This is all very fascinating, Mr. James. How does the department plan on doing this?

SETH

I have personally designed a class that teaches human growth. Too the betterment of the participant. We also plan on teaching the participants skills which will better help them enter society.

LENA

Are speaking of the non scanners?

SETH

Exactly. These poor people have lived on the outskirts of society for many years. Many of them don't understand how to become a functioning citizen again. That is my departments goal. To build a bridge.

LENA

Some say they are not capable of reentering society.

SETH

I disagree. With the right encouragement. It is possible.

LENA

There is bitterness out in the public about the non scanners. People believe that the rise in crime is directly associated with the tent cities.

(MORE)

LENA (CONT'D)

Many think we should clean out these tent cities. If the government would stop sending in supplies and supporting these people maybe they would make different decisions.

SETH

We can't do this unless these people have a place to go. A way to support their families.

LENA

Can they really change?

SETH

Humanity has always been capable of change.

LENA

What about those who are not capable of change?

SETH

Look, Lena. May I call you Lena.

LENA

Certainly.

SETH

There are things we must understand. First there are always growing pains in society when we try to transform ourselves. These pains are much like a woman about to give birth. You have to go through the pain to get to the joy... The department is in it's infancy but I have great hopes for our endeavor.

LENA

It's your baby.

SETH

I guess you could say that.

LENA

Your friends don't think much of your baby.

SETH

Which Friends?

LENA

Wilson.

SETH

Friends don't always agree on everything. Bold endeavors will always have their critics. But we must not let these critics stop us from reaching out of the limits we have placed on ourselves... Humanity is on the verge on accomplishing something never before accomplished. And I think history will judge us well.

Lena nods.

LENA

(Noticing the bloodiness of the meat.)

You really like your meat rare.

SETH

I have never been afraid of a little blood.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING DAY

Maryann walks up to the front desk. Annie smiles warmly at her.

ANNIE

Hello, Maryann.

MARYANN

Hi, Annie. I need to pay the rent.

ANNIE

Of course.

Annie reaches under the counter to bring up a scanner. She places it on the counter. Maryann places her finger on the scanner. An unaccepted sound blares. Annie looks horrified. Maryann looks shocked.

MARYANN

Let me try again.

She again places her finger on the scanner and again the unaccepted sound blares.

ANNIE

Your not scanning. I am so sorry.

MARYANN

(panicked)

This is a mistake.

INT. CONVENENCE STORE MORNING

Michael walks into the store. He grabs a newspaper from the newsstand and places it on the counter. The clerk Two looks at Michael.

CLERK TWO

Scan, Please.

Michael places his finger on the waiting scanner. An unaccepted sound blares. Michael is shocked. The clerk studies him.

MICHAEL

I am sorry, this can't be right.

CLERK TWO

No mistake. The scanners, don't make mistakes...Look, just take it... Go ahead. Take it.

Michael takes the newspaper.

MICHAEL

Thanks.

INT. SETH'S OFFICE SHOWER ROOM

We hear classical music playing in the air. Our eyes follow the music in a stunning but cold bathroom. Seth is in the shower. The shower walls are covered with cold grey stone. Two streams of water coming from the left and the right hit his perfect body. The drops of water are powerful and they sting his skin. His hands run through his thick black hair coming to rest on opposite sides of the shower. His eyes are closed as he listens to the music. The water runs down his body to the drain of the shower. We watch the water swirl around the drain. A tinge of blood starts to swirl with the water. Around, around the eerie combination go until they reach their final destination.

Seth walks out of the shower and wraps a towel around him. He walks to the fogged up mirror and wipes it with a towel. He studies his face.

INT. MICHAEL'S APARTMENT

Maryann is sitting on the floor packing boxes. Her face is stained with tears. Michael walks and kneels down to her.

MARYANN

I went to pay the rent, but I wouldn't scan.

MICHAEL

I know.

MARYANN

How could this happen to us? It just doesn't make sense.

MICHAEL

It will be OK.

MARYANN

It won't be OK. Were am I going to have this baby. We can't go to a hospital. We have no place to live. Where are we going to go?

Maryann sobs on Michael's shoulder.

MICHAEL

I know were we can go.

INT. SETH'S OFFICE

Seth sits behind his desk. He is polishing his black wing tipped shoes. Back and forth goes the brush on the fine leather. Seth stops for a moment to study the shine but it does not please him. He continues polishing when a KNOCK at the door is heard.

SETH

(Polishing)

Come in.

Captain enters the room.

CAPTAIN

Sir, everything has been done just as you asked.

SETH

Good, very good.

CAPTAIN

The secretary is here.

SETH

(Looking at his shoes)

Show him in.

The Secretary walks in.

SETH (CONT'D)

Sit, Mr. Secretary.

SECRETARY

(Sitting in a chair)

I asked you to come see me. I am a very busy man, Mr. James.

SETH

(Looking up from his shoes)

As am I. Or have you forgotten

SECRETARY

I haven't forgotten...The president is concerned. Questions are being raised about the department. Budget concerns. As well as other concerns.

SETH

(Returning to polishing)

I thought my interview went well with Ms. Kelly. Her article was favorable.

SECRETARY

Yes, The article was fine but the public doesn't quite understand why we need another department of education.

SETH

(Correcting)

Department of reeducation.

SECRETARY

(Annoyed)

What ever you call it. The public doesn't want to give any more tax dollars for another government program.

Seth stops suddenly from polishing.

SETH

(Looking directly at the Secretary)

The greater public understands very clearly what this department's purpose is. If they say otherwise. They lie. The public understands to reach the level in evolution which we wish to reach. Certain parts of ourselves will have to be abandoned... Really, Mr. Secretary all the public wants is to go home at night and watch their porn on forty two inch TV's. They want be tucked in at night with their illusion of reality safely secure. They want things clean. And as long as we keep things clean, the public will pay for what we tell them to pay for.

EXT. TENT CITY

Carrying there belongings, Michael and Maryann enter tent city. A crowd of people gather around them. The crowd are curious of the new comers. Doc makes his way through the crowd.

DOC

(To Michael and Maryann)

Hello. Welcome. I am Doc Polly.

Doc turns to the crowd.

DOC (CONT'D)

(To crowd)

Go on go back to what you were doing.

The crowd leaves.

MICHAEL

(To Doc)

I am Michael and this my wife Maryann.

DOC

(Shaking hands)

Maryann, it's a great pleasure to meet you both...You'll have to excuse my neighbors. They are fearful of strangers but more and more people come every day... Let me show you around.

Doc, Michael and Maryann begin to walk along the dirt paths of tent city.

DOC (CONT'D)

There is a place you can stay. The people that used to live there, left a few days ago.

MARYANN

Where did they go?

Doc stops and turns to look at Maryann.

DOC

(Looking unsure)

Greener pastures. I am sure.

Doc starts walking again. Michael and Maryann follow.

DOC (CONT'D)

I do hear there is a place. A safe place up north. Where some people have gone but I think tent city is just as nice as any place else. We have strict rules about trash here. No litter on the walk ways. There are out houses over the hill. We try to keep this place clean... All cooking is done outside... Be careful of your fire.

Doc turns back to Michael and Maryann

DOC (CONT'D)

You didn't happen to bring any food with you?

MICHAEL

Some cans.

DOC

Good. It's hard to buy without being scanned but some of us do grow our own.

(MORE)

DOC (CONT'D)

And we do have some friends that help us
from time to time.

Doc, Maryann and Michael come to a tidy shack.

DOC (CONT'D)

Here it is.

Doc walks into the shack. Maryann looks at the humble shack and tears start to form in her eyes. Michael gently pulls her into the shack.

INT. SHACK

Doc points out the few features of the shack. Maryann stands back trying to hide her disgust. Michael listens eagerly to Doc.

DOC

The people before you left a few things.
There are a few blankets. Some pots here.
A table there... I am surprised so much
is still here. Like I said, they just
left a short time ago...Well, I'll let
you get settled in.

Doc starts to leave but noticing Maryann's growing belly.

DOC (CONT'D)

I think I must have delivered thousands
of babies.

Doc looks down at his hands.

DOC (CONT'D)

I used to be a doctor... Did, I tell you
that? Anyway, I'll let you two get
settled.

Maryann smiles. Doc walks out the door.

EXT. OUTSIDE SHACK DAY

Michael is outside building a fire in a fire pit. He struggles to get the fire lit as Maryann looks on. Kate walks over. Kate is a gangly woman in her early forties.

KATE
(Taking the matches from
Michael)
Here let me do it.

Kate quickly gets the twigs burning.

KATE (CONT'D)
There. It's just takes getting used too.
You'll get the hang of it.

MICHAEL
Thank you.

KATE
I didn't know anything about starting a
fire when I first came here. My husband
and my older boy took care of it for me.
But My husband left a while ago and well
my oldest boy took it hard. He left and I
haven't heard from him either.

Kate looks sad for a moment but the sadness quickly
fades. Kate points to a thin ten year old boy nearby. The
boy is reading a book that is falling apart.

KATE (CONT'D)
It's just me and Sam now. He's my
youngest. He, must of read that book ten
times. Not much to do around here other
then work and worry.

Kate looks at Maryann and smiles but Maryann breaks into
tears and runs into the shack.

MICHAEL
My wife is not feeling well these days.

KATE
Yes, I remember feeling that way too. She
needs a little time. She's stronger then
she thinks. Hell, we all are... But, your
wife is real lucky to have Doc Polly
here. He was a real good doctor. Famous
and everything.

MICHAEL
Why is he here?

KATE

Why is he here? That's a question. Why is anyone here? Who knows. The world has gone crazy, that's why. Don't tell Doc that. He refuses to believe it. He still thinks this is all some kind of cosmic mistake. But, you can be sure there is a reason... Doc's a good soul.

MICHAEL

He seems to be a good man.

Kate nods.

KATE

(Showing Michael the meager garden.)

Hey, I thought we could share the work in the garden. It's not much but it helps when winter comes.

Michael questions with his eyes.

KATE (CONT'D)

Timber, lives in the blue tent at the end of this walk way. Good guy. Knows a lot about living off the grid. Used to be in the army.

Taking a water can from the front of her shack.

MICHAEL

What about getting food?

KATE

(Watering the garden.)

It can be done but you have to go to friendly stores and they are harder and harder to find. Go to the wrong store and people disappear. That's what I think happened to the people that lived here before you... Who knows? People are here one day and gone the next... There is a man that comes by every now and then. He will sell things for jewelry. Gold, silver, what ever you have. Most of us have run out things like that but new people still have things. Oh and the trucks come once a month.

MICHEAL

Trucks?

KATE

(noticing a weed)

Government trucks. They bring some food and supplies. They used to come every week but now they come once a month... Well, Now they come when they come.

MICHAEL

Doc was talking about a place up north. A safe place.

KATE

(Pulling the weed)

That myth... I am sure that story floats around every tent city in every state.

INT. DOCTOR OFFICE

Seth sits on an examining table. DR. REESE examines Seth.

DR. REESE

Well, I would say that you are in excellent health. Not a thing wrong with you.

SETH

Are you sure Doctor. Maybe you just haven't found it. Maybe you should give me another test.

DR. REESE

I ran all the tests. There is nothing wrong with you.

SETH

Sometimes I don't feel right.

DR. REESE

We all have our aches and pains every now and then. It's just a sign you're getting older.

SETH

Older?

DR. REESE
Yes, older. We all get older.

SETH
(Thoughtful)
Yes, I suppose you're right.

DR. REESE
(putting his things away)
You're in better shape than most your age.

SETH
My age.

DR. REESE
(turning to Seth)
You're still a young man.

SETH
Young Men die everyday.

DR. REESE
Some, but not you.

SETH
(buttoning up his shirt)
Yes, some.

DR. REESE
Maybe you could use some time off. A
vacation.

SETH
(shaking his head)
Vacation, no. Besides, I feel most like
myself on the job.

DR. REESE
Workaholic, hey.

Dr. REESE lets out an uneasy laugh.

DR. REESE (CONT'D)
(Patting Seth on his back)
Seth, you're in perfect health.

SETH
I am pleased to hear it. Thanks.

INT. SHACK

Maryann is huddled in the corner of the shack. Micheal is going through there belongings.

MARYANN

I don't think I can live like this.

MICHAEL

You will live through this. You have too.

There is a Knock on the shack door.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Come in.

Timber, a big man of forty walks in. He is dressed in old army gear.

TIMBER

(Holding out his hand)

Hello, I'm Timber. Kate told me there where new people here.

MICHAEL

(Shaking timber's hand)

Hi, I am Michael Wilson and this is Maryann.

TIMBER

How do Ma'am.

Maryann gives a slight smile.

TIMBER (CONT'D)

You're the journalist.

MICHEAL

Was.

TIMBER

I remember you grandfather. I can't say I was a fan.

MICHEAL

Neither was I.

TIMBER

We just about have people of all professions here. Not that it means a hell of a lot in tent city.

(MORE)

TIMBER (CONT'D)

There are good people here for the most part. We try to help each other as much as we can...I know you don't know me from Adam but I was wondering if you have any jewelry? Necklaces, rings, anything? Nelson is here if you do.

MICHAEL

Nelson?

TIMBER

He sells things.

MARYANN

(Getting up from the floor)

I have some things.

Maryann walks to a bag and looks through it. She brings out a small jewelry box and starts picking through the jewelry.

MICHAEL

Maryann, No.

MARYANN

We need to eat.

Maryann places a few pieces into Micheal's hands.

TIMBER

With that you can get little.. Your ring might get you more.

Maryann looks at her wedding ring. She reluctantly removes it from her finger and hands it over.

EXT. TENT CITY

Nelson is a little sleazy man. He is sitting on the back of a pick up truck. On the tuck are cases of food and supplies. The people of tent city are lining up to buy the supplies. A man comes up with a thin gold chain.

NELSON

(To man)

What's this? This is shit ! Four cans.
That's it.

The man nods and take the cans and sadly leaves.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Don't you people have anything good? Here I am risking my life to feed you people and all you bring me is crap.

Nelson sees Timber with Maryann and Michael.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Newbie's. Good deal. Bring them over, Timber.

Timber, Maryann and Michael go to the head of the line.

WOMAN

I was here before them!

NELSON

(To Woman)

All you have is crap! Get to the back of the line! Go!

The woman heads to the back of the line.

NELSON (CONT'D)

What you got for me?

Michael shows him the wedding ring.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Well. Good stuff. Newbie's always have the good stuff. You can have a case of beans.

TIMBER

(Angry)

Don't mess around with us Nelson. This ring is half a carrot.

NELSON

(Intimidated)

OK. What do you want?

TIMBER

They will take four cases and a case toilet paper. Matches too.

Nelson places the boxes on the ground.

NELSON
 (With his hand out)
 The ring please.

Maryann takes the ring from Michael and hands it to Nelson.

NELSON (CONT'D)
 (To Maryann)
 Hey, Honey. When your done having that baby you come see me. I'm Sure I can think of something we can trade.

Michael Becomes angry and hits Nelson in the jaw. Nelson hits the ground.

NELSON (CONT'D)
 What the hell! I am just trying to help you people.

Timber brings Nelson to his feet by grabbing his collar.

TIMBER
 Hey, little man! Just because the world outside is insane! Doesn't mean we are! Now, you apologize to Mrs. Wilson.

NELSON
 (To Maryann)
 I am sorry. If you got any more jewelry. I am willing to trade. That's all I meant.

Nelson walks over to timber.

NELSON (CONT'D)
 (To Timber)
 I am telling you this because I know your a man of grace. This is the last time I am coming to Tent city. I am packing it up. It's getting to dangerous. If you want to still trade you can come to me.

Nelson places a paper into timber's hand.

NELSON (CONT'D)
 This is where my store is. Only after dark.

TIMBER

In that case they will take another case of food.

NELSON

Sure. I also have your special request.

TIMBER

Where is it?

Nelson walks to truck and pulls out two gas cans. He brings them over to timber.

NELSON

I don't know what in the hell you plan on doing with this. Other than setting this rotten place on fire.

Timber hands Nelson a gold watch.

TIMBER

This was my father's watch.

NELSON

(Sarcastically)

I'll take care of it as if it were one of my own.

EXT. FRONT OF SHACK NIGHT

Doc, Kate, Sam, Timber, Maryann and Michael huddle around an open fire. Maryann is serving food to everyone.

DOC

(To Maryann)

I want to thank you for sharing your food with us.

Maryann smiles at Doc and continues to fill plates.

TIMBER

(To Maryann)

This is mighty Good Ma'am.

MARYANN

(To Sam)

Would you like more?

Sam looks unsure and turns to his mother.

KATE

Go ahead son.

Sam nods his head yes and Maryann places more food on his plate.

TIMBER

I would hide the rest of that food. If people know you have it. Who knows what they will do. They are good people here but when you're hungry. It brings out the worst in you.

MICHAEL

How long have you been here.

TIMBER

Oh, It's been two years. Doc has been here the longest.

DOC

It'll be four years next June.

MARYANN

Why haven't you left?

KATE

Where would we go?

DOC

There is a place north of here.

KATE

Doc. Don't start with your fairy tales.

DOC

Sometimes you have to believe in something... This time, will come to an end. Goodness, will enter the world again.

TIMBER

I don't know Doc. I think things are going to get a lot worse. Nelson not coming anymore.

KATE

(Worried)

Not coming! How will we eat?

TIMBER

We can still trade but we have to go to him. I know where his store is.

KATE

Even if we could get to his store how could we bring the supplies back.

TIMBER

I have a way.

DOC

There are always the trucks. They still come. I talked to the soldier that is in charge of the shipments. I asked him to bring medicine next time.

TIMBER

Your dreaming. If you think they are going bring what we need.

KATE

The last time they came was over a month ago. And they didn't bring nearly enough food.

TIMBER

When the day comes and those trucks are empty. That's when you start worrying.

MICHAEL

I don't understand?

TIMBER

When those trucks are empty. There's a reason. That day comes. I am running the other way. I suggest you all do the same.

DOC

Those soldiers don't mean any harm. Their our soldiers.

TIMBER

They haven't been our soldiers for a long time. You run and hide when those trucks show up empty.

From out of the darkness, SARA comes up to Doc.

DOC
(Putting his plate down)
Sara.

SARA
My mother. Is not good.

DOC
I'll come.

INT. TENT NIGHT

Josey is an old woman. She lays in a mass of blankets. Her breath is laboured. Doc walks in with Michael and Maryann. Sara is waiting for them.

SARA
She's having trouble. Please help her.

Doc kneels down to Josey.

JOSEY
(Laboured)
Thank you... For coming.

DOC
(Smiling)
I told you I would.

Maryann kneels down and takes Josey's hand. Josey smiles at Maryann.

JOSEY
(To Maryann)
Ah, I see hope in your face.

DOC
Josey, There is nothing I can do.

JOSEY
(Laboured)
You can hold my hand.

The old woman close her eyes and dies.

EXT. SHACK NIGHT

Maryann hugs Sara in her sadness. Michael walks with doc a little way off.

DOC

I used to heal people and now all I can do is watch them die. It was her time but for so many here it is not. I feel so helpless. So damn helpless.

MICHAEL

I am sure you do all you can.

DOC

I know so much about the human anatomy. The skeletal system. The muscular system. The nervous system. All of it useless. It's the human soul. I don't understand. Why? Why do we inflict such pain on each other?

MICHAEL

I don't have any answers for you.

DOC

I have no answers either. I am a simple man with simple skills and a wish to do more.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE ROOM

Seth enters a conference room. He walks to the front of the room. The room is filled with women and men sitting at tables.

SETH

Good morning... Our great work will begin soon. In six weeks our reeducation centers will open all over this great nation. During the next six weeks you will receive the training required to accomplish this great goal which has been placed in our hands. Outside these walls there are many that doubt our resolve. Our commitment to the future. But our commitment is solid and unshakable. We will succeed where others have failed. We will usher in a new age. An age of enlightenment and promise. We will become our own masters. We will take the weak and make them strong. We will take the uneducated and illuminate the darkness of their minds.

(MORE)

SETH (CONT'D)

We will do all these things...Some of us will not reach the promise land and we will thank them for their sacrifice. Of those who will embrace this new world. They will see the face of a God...Now Let's begin.

The room breaks out into applause.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Seth exits the conference room. The Captain is holding books waiting for him.

CAPTAIN

Wonderful speech sir.

SETH

You think so?

Seth walks along a hallway. The Captain follows.

CAPTAIN

History will remember this day.

SETH

History.

CAPTAIN

Yes, sir. Just imagine. We'll be in history books someday.

SETH

History books. Most people in history book are dead.

CAPTAIN

I guess so sir. But they live forever in books.

SETH

(Displeased)

In books.

CAPTAIN

Speaking of books. I have those books you wanted.

Seth stops and looks through the books.

SETH

Good. I been reading this book about the fountain of youth. It says that the fountain of youth can be found some where in South America. What do you think of that?

CAPTAIN

I don't know sir. Maybe it's possible.

SETH

(Laughing)

This is why you will never be higher then you are right now.

Seth begins walking again.

SETH (CONT'D)

They say. In this book that one simply has to place a cup into the fountain and drink from it. Then you will live forever... Silly is it not? Drinking from a cup and living forever. But this is how some poor people think. That is the whole reason for the reeducation centers... In this country, we have come to believe that all people are capable of the same things. But this is simply not true. Many lack the mental capability for certain tasks. Is it their fault? Of course not. It's just what evolution has determined. And we must treat these unfortunate people with the dignity they deserve...But we can not let them hold us back to become what the human race was meant to become.

CAPTAIN

Yes, sir.

SETH

Take those to my office. Give them to my assistant. He'll take care of them.

INT. SHACK

We see Maryann tidying the shack. She looks at the nearly empty food crates. She sighs deeply. Michael walks over to her.

MARYANN

We are almost out of food.

Michael nods.

EXT. TENT CITY NIGHT

Michael and Timber are walking in the woods together.
Timber is carrying gas cans.

MICHAEL

I thought we were going to get supplies.
Where are we going?

TIMBER

To salvation.

Timber and Michael come upon a old jeep hidden under some
brush.

TIMBER (CONT'D)

I been hiding this for some time now. We
can take it to the store.

Timber removes the brush from the jeep.

TIMBER (CONT'D)

This is our way out of here. We can drive
up north in this.

MICHAEL

I thought up north is a myth.

TIMBER

Myth or not we need to get out of tent
city...I have enough gas. I think.

Timber reveals serval more gas cans hidden in the back of
the jeep.

MICHAEL

Your asking us to go with you?

TIMBER

You, Maryann, Doc Kate, and Sam. It would
be tight but at least we be out of tent
city.

MICHAEL

I don't know if Doc would go?

Filling Gas tank

TIMBER

I know... But I think we won't have a choice.

MICHAEL

You really think something is going to happen.

TIMBER

I don't know much but I do know about hate... We are so hated by the people on the outside. Hell, you've seen it.

MICHAEL

I don't know what I have seen.

TIMBER

You've seen hate become noble. And when hate becomes noble the world changes... Let's go get supplies.

Timber gets in jeep and Michael follows.

INT. SHACK NIGHT

Kate and Maryann are together. Sam is sleep on a mat. Kate is near him brushing his hair off his forehead. Maryann Watches from the distance. She paces the tiny room.

KATE

You should try to stay off your feet.

MARYANN

(worried)

I wish I could have gone with them.

KATE

DO you think you could have changed anything if you did?

MARYANN

I could do something.

KATE

Men need to feel like they are taking care of us. And when they feel like they can't protect us. It's a big blow.

Maryann sits on a wooden stool. She notices the tender touch of Kate's hand on Sam's head.

MARYANN

I can't imagine raising a child here. I just don't think I have it in me to do it.

KATE

You do.

MARYANN

I don't know. I feel so weak. Maybe it would be better if this baby wasn't coming at all. I had everything planned and now I don't even know if I can feed this baby.

KATE

Life doesn't care about our plans. There is a reason for your baby being born now. You don't know it now. But some day you will. My mother always used to say that a baby means hope... Sometimes when we feel the weakest. That's when we are the strongest. You are going to live through this and that baby will live through this. You have too... There is no stronger love than a mother's.

EXT. BACK OF STORE NIGHT

Timber and Michael drive up to a deserted loading area. They stop to survey the place. When they see a light coming from inside. Timber seeing it's safe drives up to loading dock. They both exit the jeep. Nelson walks out of a back door.

NELSON

So you finely came.

TIMBER

We have to eat.

NELSON

(Looking at the jeep)
Don't we all. Hey were did you get the
pile of junk?

TIMBER

(Angry)
That's none of your damn business.

NELSON

Alright, don't get hostile... What you
got for me?

MICHAEL

We have few gold necklaces and a
bracelet.

NELSON

For that I can give only a couple of
cases.

TIMBER

We'll take it.

NELSON

(Smiling)
Of course you will.

Nelson opens a loading door. He pulls to the end of the
dock two cases of food. Michael and timber grab the cases
and load them into the back of the jeep.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Hey, Just remember My offer to your wife
is still open.

Michael grabs Nelson.

NELSON (CONT'D)

How are you going to feed that kid? Hey!

Michael lets go of Nelson and gets into the jeep.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Now, you people are going to start
treating me the way I deserve to be
treated.

Timber gets into the jeep and drives off.

INT. SHACK NIGHT

Maryann, Kate and Sam are sleep. A small camping lamp glows in the back ground. A shadow dances along the wall of the shack. Maryann is startled by the flash of light and her eyes open to reveal a knife at her throat. A dirty man has her.

THIEF

Get up.

Maryann gets to her feet. Kate and Sam are awoken. The thief brings his finger to his lips to urge them to remain quite. Kate draws Sam to her. The thief holds on to Maryann tightly. The knife remains close to her throat.

THIEF (CONT'D)

Were is the food?

MARYANN

We don't have any.

THIEF

Your lying

MARYANN

No, I am not. It's gone. Look for your self.

Maryann points to the empty cases. The thief walks carefully to the empty crates, taking Maryann with him. Maryann is frightened but calm.

THIEF

(Growing angry)

You have hidden it.

MARYANN

No. We haven't.

THIEF

Were is it? I need that food.

He starts shaking Maryann. He is distracted and Kate grabs the knife. Maryann starts to fight and Sam hits the thief with the lamp. The thief is knocked out and falls to the ground. In the struggle Maryann loses her footing and starts to fall to the ground. TO avoid falling on her stomach she catches her self with her wrists.

INT. JEEP NIGHT

Michael and Timber are defeated as they drive from the loading dock. Michael's face is full of anguish. He thinks of the life that his family will have to undergo. In the background we see the loading dock becoming smaller and smaller. The silent scene is broken by a large explosion. The store's loading dock is left in ruins. Timber stops the jeep and the two look back. Their stunned faces tell a story of confusion and despair. After a few moments of disbelief timber drives away from the mayhem.

INT. SETH'S HOME NIGHT

Seth is in his study. Classical music loudly plays in the background. Seth's desk is covered with various old, rare books as he sips a glass of red wine. The open book shows a picture of the fabled fountain of youth and other myths and legends. Seth is looking through his sketch pad. The pad is filled with different faces. He studies the faces carefully. Seth looks at his watch and pushes the Sketch pad away. He pulls a tray towards him. The tray is filled with bottles and jars of different liquid vitamins and herbs. A glass is placed in the middle of the tray and a large bottle water stands next to it. Seth pours the water into the glass. Seth combines the different herbs and liquids and skillfully places them into the water. He carefully stirs the water with great seriousness. He places the spoon carefully down on a spoon holder. Seth takes the glass of his newly formed mixture and drinks it down. Seth then takes the remaining red wine and drinks. Seth then waits for the effects of the mixture. Nothing seems to happens and Seth grows impatient and annoyed. A Phone Rings. Seth quickly answers.

SETH

Hello.

PHONE VOICE V.O

There has been a explosion. A local store. One death. The press is reporting it was a group of non scanners.

SETH

Yes. I see.

Seth hangs up the phone and continues with his search for the right combination.

INT. SHACK

Hearing about what has just happened, Micheal rushes into the humble shack to find Maryann laying on piles of blankets. Maryann smiles at him.

MICHAEL

Are you alright? I shouldn't have left you.

MARYANN

I am fine and the baby's fine. Doc said so.

MICHAEL

I should have stayed here.

MARYANN

I know I have been silly.

MICHAEL

What, are you talking about?

MARYANN

I have been weak.

MICHAEL

(Interrupting)
You have been fine.

MARYANN

(Interrupting)
I have been weak. I just want you to know. Whatever we might have to go through for this baby. What ever that is. I can. I will. You Married such a silly girl. I used to worry about so many things. So many silly, ridiculous things, that just don't matter. They just don't matter.

Maryann touches Michael's face.

MARYANN (CONT'D)

You, me, the baby. We are all that matter. I promise. I will be the strong woman, you, the baby, need me to be.

INT. REEDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Captain is at a desk typing at a computer when Seth walks in.

SETH
(energetic)
This is a good day.

CAPTAIN
Sir?

SETH
There was a bombing last night.

CAPTAIN
That's terrible, sir.

SETH
(Unmoved)
Yes, Very sad. Such a sad event.

CAPTAIN
Sir?

SETH
(Cupping his hand to his ear)
Do hear that?

CAPTAIN
Hear what?

SETH
The public's clamor for change.

EXT. TENT CITY

Michael and Maryann are standing by a fire warming their hands when the sound of trucks entering the camp are heard.

MICHAEL
It's the trucks. I better go see what they got.

Maryann smiles half heartily.

EXT. TENT CITY

Michael walks over to the trucks. He fights his way through the waiting crowds to the front of the line. The soldier pulls down the tail gate to reveal an empty truck. The people are puzzled but not alarmed. Michael's faces show a canvass of emotion till it turns to complete horror. He slips away from the line of people and heads back to Maryann.

EXT. TENT CITY

Maryann still by the fire grows upset as she sees Michael's quick return. Michael pulls her close.

MICHAEL

The trucks are empty. We have to go. Now.

EXT. TENT CITY

The people wait in line by the trucks.

MAN ONE

Were is the food?

WOMAN ONE

How do you expect us to live?

The crowd grows impatient. Soldiers start coming from all directions. They surround the crowd.

SOLIDER

This tent city is being moved. Please grab only what you can carry and get into the trucks. We will take you to a new tent city. A Better place.

WOMAN ONE

(To soldier)

What are you talking about.

SOLDIER

If you gather your belongings and start forming two lines. This move will be quick.

MAN TWO

Were are you taking us?

SOLIDER

This tent city is being torn down. It has become a fire hazard.

MAN THREE

This is our home. We don't want to go.

SOLIDER

Staying is not an option. You get on the trucks.

People come with there meager belongings and start entering the trucks.

WOMEN TWO

(As being loaded)

A Better Place?

SOLIDER

Yes, Ma'am.

EXT. TENT CITY

Havoc breaks out in tent city. People are running around in a panic as soldiers begin tearing down the tents and knocking down shacks. The people dutifully line up at the trucks. Michael begins showing Maryann the way to the hidden jeep. Timber, Kate and Sam come running to them.

KATE

The trucks are empty.

TIMBER

We have to go. Michael, show them to the jeep. I'll meet you there. I have to get doc.

Timber runs away from the group.

MICHAEL

Follow me.

EXT. TENT CITY

The four frightened people make there way to the jeep. Michael removes the brush from the jeep. Sam and Kate help. Michael grabs Gas cans from the back and starts pouring them into the gas tank.

MARYANN

Will we have enough?

MICHAEL

Enough to get away from here.

EXT.TENT CITY

Doc is lined up to get on the truck . He tenderly hangs on to his doctors bag. His fear grows as he sees the out break of madness. Timber runs up to him

TIMBER

Doc. You've got to come with us.

DOC

They said they are taking us to a better place. Maybe they will need my skills.

TIMBER

You really think there taking us to a better place? Your no fool Doc.

DOC

(sober)

Yes, I suppose your right.

The two get out line but a soldier notices.

SOLIDER TWO

(To Doc and Timber)

Hey, Where are you two going!

The two run for the nearby trees. The soldier follows them.

EXT.TENT CITY

Michael is outside the jeep waiting for Timber and Doc to return. He grows concerned as every minute goes by.

MICHAEL

I have to go look for them.

MARYANN

No, don't go!

KATE

They will be here.

MICHAEL

I have to go. I'll be right back.

MARYANN

Michael!

MICHAEL

I have too.

Michael takes Maryann gives her a kiss. Almost knowing it will be the last kiss. She clings to him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(Resting his hand on Maryann
stomach.)

Tell him about me.

Michael breaks away from her embrace and runs back to tent city.

MARYANN

Michael! Please don't go!

Kate comforts Maryann.

EXT. TENT CITY

Soldier two runs after Doc and Timber. Doc trips and falls to the ground. Timber turns back and seeing Doc on the ground he returns to Doc.

TIMBER

Come on Doc. We got to keep moving.

Doc and Timber start running again. The soldier is after them.

SOLIDER TWO

(Into Microphone)

Two are trying to get away. I need help.

The soldier Two takes out his gun.

SOLDIER TWO

Stop! Stop!

Soldiers Two fires at Doc and Timber. The two men come to an abrupt stop.

DOC
(Holding up his hands)
Don't shoot.

SOLDIER TWO
(nervous)
You have to go on the trucks! Staying is
not an option!

TIMBER
(trying to reason with him)
Hey, Your not going to shoot us.

SOLDIER TWO
Get back to the trucks, Now!

Timber slowly walks to the soldier.

TIMBER
We just want to leave. We won't come
back.

SOLDIER TWO
(fearful)
You have to get on the trucks!

TIMBER
Let us go. We're just like you.

SOLIDER TWO
(Angry)
You are nothing like me!

Soldier shoots Timber and Timber falls to the ground. Doc
goes over to Timber in tears.

DOC
Oh, No! Please no!

The soldier points his gun at Doc. Just as he is ready to
fire Michael comes out of the shadows and knocks the
soldier over. The two men wrestle for the gun. The
soldier punches Michael in the face and blood squirts
from his lip. The gun falls free on the ground. Michael
dives for it and shoots the soldier dead. Michael throws
the gun on the ground. Other soldiers start coming.

MICHAEL

(Pulling Doc away from
Timber's dead body)

Come on Doc!

Doc reluctantly starts to run. Michael is behind him. A soldier shoots at Michael and hits him in the arm. Michael falls to the ground. Doc turns to see him fall. Doc returns to Michael.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(Getting to his feet.)

Go Doc go! I am right behind you.

Doc again starts running. Michael falls again and is overcome by soldiers.

EXT. TENT CITY

Doc reaches the jeep.

MARYANN

Where is Michael?

KATE

And Timber.

DOC

(Breathless)

They've killed Timber and taken Michael

Maryann lets out a wail.

KATE

(Holding up Maryann)

We have to go.

DOC

(Reluctant)

Yes, let's go.

INT. CONCERT HALL NIGHT

Seth sits among the elite in a large concert hall. The lights in the hall dim. The conductor lifts his wand and the musicians begin to play. Seth taps his black polished shoes on the floor of the hall. His eyes close as he is carried away by the music.

EXT. REEDUCATION CENTER

The music plays in the background and it follows the trucks as they enter the gates of the reeducation center. The people of tent city are unsure of their new surroundings. They are tired from their cramped ride.

INT. REEDUCATION CENTER

The trucks are being unloaded of there cargo. Guards are overseeing the unloading. A woman neatly dressed waits for the arrival. Crates are lined up along a wall.

GREETER

(Smiling)

Welcome, to the reeducation center 101.
If you will place all belongings in the crates provided then get into one of these lines.

A long table with four operators sit at the computers. The people dutifully place their belongings into the crates and get into lines.

GREETER (CONT'D)

You will be registered. Give the operators you name and age. And any skills you may have.

OLD WOMAN

Do you know were we are going to live?

GREETER

(Smiling at the old woman)

All Your questions will be answered in your reeducation class. Please get in line.

YOUNG WOMEN

(Holding a small child)

What about the children.

GREETER

They will take the class with you. Please get into line.

Another truck enters the center and begins to unload. The Greeter sees the new arrivals.

GREETER (CONT'D)

Welcome to reeducation center 101. If you will please place all belongings in the crates provided then get into one of the lines.

INT. CONCERT HALL NIGHT

Seth's face is filled with delight as the music washes over him.

INT. REEDUCATION CENTER

The music follows FRANK as he waits in line. He Walks up to the waiting operator.

OPERATOR

(Without looking at Frank)

Name Please?

FRANK

Frank Morris.

OPERATOR

Age?

FRANK

Forty two.

OPERATOR

Any Skills?

FRANK

I am a teacher... A math teacher... I was a teacher.

The operator looks at Frank.

OPERATOR

Your class begins in half an hour. Wait over there please.

The operator points over to a group of men standing together. Frank nods and walks over to the group. A guard walks over to the group of men.

GUARD

(To operator)

Is this the first group?

The operator nods yes.

GUARD (CONT'D)
(To group)
Follow me please.

The group of men follow the guard.

INT. CONCERT HALL NIGHT

The conductor is guiding the musicians to a height of intensity. Seth crosses his legs and rests his head on his hand. Each muscle in his body feels the music.

INT. REEDUCATION CENTER

The music plays in the background as the men walk through large doors and down a long hallway. The guard looks back at the men to make sure that they follow.

GUARD
(Smiling)
Your class will last about an hour and then you be taken to were you will sleep for the night.

MAN
Do we get any food?

GUARD
You will be food after the class.

They come to a second set of large open doors. The men of the group eagerly look into the room. Long tables and chairs are set up in the cold concrete room. On a small table near the doors are piles of paper and pens.

GUARD (CONT'D)
Please take some paper and a pen. Then please take a seat.

The men dutifully do as they are told. They all enter the room.

INT. REEDUCATION CENTER

Again the music plays. The men sit at the long tables. Some of the men test out the pens on the paper.

Other survey the cold walls of the room. Frank nervously sits at a table and watches as the rest of group takes their places. The guard standing outside the room ushers the men inside. When the last man enters the guard closes the large doors and locks it.

INT. REEDUCATION CENTER

The guard begins to put more paper and pens on the little table. He stops for a moment as he hears the men's voices from inside the room become uneasy. Panic is heard coming from the room and then silence. He continues to restock the table. The music continues to play.

INT. REEDUCATION CENTER

The guard walks back up the long hall way. The music ends and concert hall applause breaks the silence.

INT. CONCERT HALL NIGHT

Seth wakes From the hold of the music and stands with the crowd. His hands come together powerfully to clap for the symphony.

INT. JEEP NIGHT

Kate pulls up to an old farm. A dim light in the window can be seen. Doc, Sam and Maryann are asleep in the jeep. Kate rests her chin on the steering wheel and her eyes glance at the gas gage on the dashboard. It reads empty. Maryann wakes from her sleep.

MARYANN

Why did you stop?

KATE

This is as far as we go.

Kate starts to get out of the jeep.

MARYANN

Is it safe?

Kate smiles at Maryann and shrugs her shoulders. Maryann watches Kate head for the door of the farmhouse.

INT. COURTROOM DAY

A judge sits behind the bench. Micheal is standing with his lawyer. Seth sits in the very last row of the courtroom. Seth sketches Michael's face in a notebook.

JUDGE

Michael Wilson, You have been found guilty of serious crimes against society. You have been defiant in these proceedings. I sentence you to one year reeducation.

SETH

(at the same time)

You have been found guilty of serious crimes against society. You have been defiant in these proceedings. I sentence you to one year reeducation.

JUDGE

Maybe they can help you.

Michael Looks defiant and unmoved. Seth barely notices and continues to draw in a notebook.

INT. HOLDING CELL

Michael is walked down a hall way of cells. THOMAS is a disheveled man in his sixties, is standing in the cell. His face is covered with black and blue marks.

THOMAS

Blessed the man who is afflicted: because after he shall have been proved by tribulation. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been proved.

GUARD

(Hitting the bars of Thomas's cell)

Shut up!

Thomas jumps back from the cell door and protects his face. The guard puts Michael in his cell.

GUARD (CONT'D)
 (Pointing to Thomas)
 He a little off his rocker... And he
 never shuts up!

The guard closes the cell door.

GUARD (CONT'D)
 But you won't be here long. Your class
 starts tomorrow.

The guard walks out and Michael rests his head on the
 cell door.

Thomas walks back to his cell door and gets as close to
 Michael as he can.

THOMAS
 We are chastised by the Lord, that we may
 not be condemned with this world.

MICHEAL
 Cortithniens.

THOMAS
 Come to me , all you that labour and are
 burdened, and I will refresh you.

MICHAEL
 Matthew.

THOMAS
 Blessed be God, in adversity.

MICHAEL
 (Angry)
 I don't believe in any god.

THOMAS
 Thou of little faith! Why did'st thou
 doubt?

MICHAEL
 (To himself)
 Why am I here? How will I get out of
 here. How will I get to my wife... My
 baby?

THOMAS

The Chalice which my father hath given
me, shall I not drink it.

MICHAEL

(Angry)

You think there is a reason for all this?
You tell me. You tell me the reason?

THOMAS

As we know not what to do, we can only
turn our eyes to thee.

MICHAEL

(Angry)

I have a wife and baby I will never see.
Hell, I know he won't stop hunting
them... He'll find them... I know he'll
find them.

THOMAS

Blessed, says the lord , are they who
morn, for they shall be comforted.

MICHAEL

(Fearful to himself)

What is going to happen to me?

THOMAS

God is faithful, who will not suffer you
to be tempted above that you may able to
bear.

MICHAEL

(To himself)

This is insane! The the world has gone
insane!

THOMAS

I have sinned, and indeed I have
offended, and I have not received what I
have deserved.

MICHAEL

(To Thomas)

You are crazy! You know that! You're
crazy!

THOMAS

In my trouble I cried to the Lord and he heard me.

MICHAEL

(To himself full of anguish)
I am so afraid. I just so damn afraid.

THOMAS

In tribulations, we should never cease to hope with confidence.

MICHAEL

(In anguish to himself)
I don't want to die.

THOMAS

Although he should kill me, I will trust in him.

MICHAEL

(To Thomas)
Do you ever shut up!

Thomas is frightened and walks to his cot and curls himself in the blankets.

INT.INTERAGATION ROOM

Michael is brought into a sterile room. Chains hang from the ceiling and a long table is against the wall. The guard brings Michael in and places Michael's hands into the hanging chains. Seth walks in with his briefcase. He ignores Michael and walks to the table. His back is turned to Michael as he sets the briefcase down. Seth hands lovingly caress the briefcase.

MICHAEL

What is this place?

SETH

(turning to Michael)
This place is my sanctuary.

Guard leaves and shuts the door behind him. Seth walks to an I pod stereo system and starts the classical music. The music is a beautiful symphony. Seth stands with his eyes closed as the music washes over him. Michael grows uneasy as he starts to see a different side of Seth.

MICHAEL
 (frightened)
 Seth! Seth! What are you doing?

Seth remains silent and listens to the music. He demeanor changes. He is becoming his darker half.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 (pulling at the chains)
 Is this what you want to teach me?

SETH
 (waking up from his trance)
 I have much to teach you.

Seth turns back to the table. He opens his briefcase. He removes an upper compartment to show various torture devices. Seth carefully places the devices on the table with loving care. Michael hopelessly tries to free himself.

SETH (CONT'D)
 I have planned many lessons for you today. First lesson.

MICHAEL
 Seth! Seth! It's Me! It's Michael!

SETH
 (ignoring Michael's pleas.)
 Each of us are born with a halter on our necks.

Seth places a strap around Michael's neck. Michael tries to fight but he is powerless. Seth squeezes the strap tight. Michael gasps for air. After a few moments Seth releases the strap.

SETH (CONT'D)
 (In his element)
 Every step we take brings us closer to death.

INT. FARMHOUSE NIGHT

Maryann is in labour. Kate is at her side holding her hand. Doc is delivering the baby. Maryann is in the middle of a contraction. Her face is covered with sweat and tears.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM NIGHT

Michael coughs and tries to regain his breath.

SETH
Where did they go?

MICHAEL
(Breathless)
Why?

SETH
I will not let any part of you live!

Again Seth tightens the strap.

INT. FARMHOUSE NIGHT

Maryann is giving birth. She is in a panic and her eyes race around the room looking for relief from the pain.

DOC
Maryann! Look at Me!

Maryann finds Doc's eyes.

DOC (CONT'D)
I want you to take a deep breath and push. But not until I tell you too.

MARYANN
(Growing stronger)
I can do this!

DOC
Now push!

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM NIGHT

After few moments the strap is released. Michael tries to regain his breath.

MICHAEL
(Breathless)
I will never tell you.

SETH
You will tell me... I have broken many stronger than you.

Seth walks to the table and takes a whip.

SETH (CONT'D)
You will tell me.

MICHAEL
I will not!

Seth use the whip and Michael lets out a groan of pain.

INT. FARMHOUSE NIGHT

Maryann lets a groan of pain as she pushes her baby out of her body.

INT.INTERAGATION ROOM NIGHT

SETH
(Beating Michael savagely)
Lesson two. Nothing is certain. Only death is certain.

Blood sprays from Michael's body. The spray of blood covers Seth's body. With every blow, Seth is emboldened. The music becomes louder and more intense as the beating goes on. The Music lowers as Seth grows tired and takes a break from the beating. Seth's wipes the blood from his face. He breathes hard but is excited. Michael weakly hangs from his wrists and is silent.

SETH (CONT'D)
(Walking to the table)
You're stronger then I thought... You should be dead... Maybe the knives.

Seth studies the blades.

SETH (CONT'D)
But which blade?

Seth lifts a knife and taunts Michael with it.

SETH (CONT'D)
This one? No, I don't think so.

Seth walks back to table and puts the knife down. His fingers run along the different knives much like a kid in a candy store.

SETH (CONT'D)
Will you tell me now?

Blood pours from his mouth. He remains silent.

SETH (CONT'D)
(Picking up a knife)
I will find them... You can be sure of
that.

MICHAEL
(Breathless and with great
effort)
You won't find them!

SETH
(Screaming)
I will find them and I will tear the very
flesh from your child's bones!

Seth stabs the knife into Michael's right leg. Michael groans in agony. A few moments pass by, as Michael's eyes search around the room for some type of relief from the pain.

MICHAEL
(Michael regaining his
strength)
You will not find them!

SETH
(Stabbing Into his other leg)
Who will stop me? You will be dead.

MICHAEL
God help me!

SETH
God? It never fails. They always call God
at the end...I am God here.

MICHAEL
(Working up his strength)
You forgot one lesson.

SETH
(Carelessly)
What lesson is that?

MICHAEL
You will die too.

SETH
(Uneasy)
What did you say?

MICHAEL
(Powerful)
It will come for you.

Seth smiles an uneasy smile and picks a knife.

SETH
Today it comes for you.

Seth walks over to Michael.

MICHAEL
(Smiling)
Tomorrow for you.

Seth rushes to Michael and cuts his throat. Michael's body shakes and his shocked eyes close. His head drops and blood pours from his throat. The blood drops on the floor and flows to surround Seth's black wing tip shoe. Seth steps away from the pool of blood. Seth shakes his shoe carelessly. Seth takes a towel and wipes his shoe clean.

INT. FARMHOUSE NIGHT

The baby exits Maryann's body and into Doc's hands. The baby is not breathing.

MARYANN
(frantic)
He's not breathing!

Doc clears the baby's nose and throat. The child lets out a loud cry. Maryann smiles and Kate comforts her.

INT. HALLWAY MOMENTS LATER

The guard stands by the door of the interrogation room. A man's thick hands touch the guard shoulders.

GUARD

(Turning to see who it is)

It's you.

MYSTERY MAN

Hey man. Who do we have in there now?

GUARD

Some writer.

Mystery man looks thoughtful. Seth walks out of the room covered with blood.

SETH

I will be in my office.

MYSTERY MAN

Yes sir.

INT. SETH'S OFFICE

Mystery man is in the Seth's office. He stands by the shower room door. He can hear the music coming from inside the shower room. Mystery Man stands and listens to the music. He has a disturb look on his face. There is a knock at the office door.

CAPTAIN

Mr. James.

MYSTERY MAN

Mr. James is not available right now.

Captain notices the closed shower room door.

CAPTAIN

Ah, yes. I have the report he was asking for.

MYSTERY MAN

Report?

CAPTAIN

About Wilson's family. I think we may have found them. A rural area not far from here. I haven't sent anyone yet. Mr. James will have to handle this on his own. I leave in about an hour to the reeducation center in Idaho.

MYSTERY MAN

Oh right.

CAPTAIN

I'll wait for Mr. James.

MYSTERY MAN

You don't need to. I'll give it to him.

CAPTAIN

I think I should wait for Mr. James.

MYSTERY MAN

Man, we are all on the same team. I am his assistant. I do handle these things. Besides you'll never make your plane if you don't leave now.

CAPTAIN

(Handing over the report)

Oh, of course. You're right. Make sure he gets it right away.

MYSTERY MAN

(Taking report)

Sure thing.

Captain walks out of the office. The mystery man looks over the report and quickly closes the paper when Seth enters the office.

SETH

Are my suits back from the cleaners?

MYSTERY MAN

Yes sir.

Mystery man walks to closet door and shows Seth the newly pressed suits.

SETH

Good. Very Good... I thought I heard someone out here.

MYSTERY MAN

Just me Sir.

Seth walks to a couch and starts putting on his newly polished shoes.

SETH
I think I'll go home now.

MYSTERY MAN
Sure sir. I can hold down the fort.

Seth rolls his eyes. He stands puts on his coat and places the black leather gloves on his hands. He grabs his briefcase and heads for the door.

SETH
(Turning to Mystery man)
You can take my suits to the car.

MYSTERY MAN
(taking suits)
Yes, sir.

INT. HALLWAY MOMENTS LATER

Seth and Mystery man walk down the long hallway. Seth is uneasy.

MYSTERY MAN
Hard week.

Seth nods.

MYSTERY MAN (CONT'D)
The centers opened on time. You must be very pleased

Seth stops and turns around to look if any ones is following him. He sees no one.

SETH
(Turning back)
Yes, the centers opened on time.

MYSTERY MAN
Is there something wrong sir?

SETH
No nothing... Did any reports come in?

MYSTERY MAN
Reports sir. No not that I can recall.

Seth Studies the Mystery man for a few moments.

SETH
(starting to walk again)
If any do come in let me know right away.

MYSTERY MAN
Yes sir.

SETH
Did you know the people used to think that blood equated with your life force. People thought lion's blood gave a man courage. They even used blood as fertilizer for crops. What do you think about that?

MYSTERY MAN
I don't sir. It seems strange.

SETH
Yes strange...Do you see how important our work is.. My work is noble and just. I know I do a great things for humanity.

MYSTERY MAN
Great things.

SETH
Future generations will thank us.

Seth is nervous and stops walking he grabs his I pod from his coat pocket and places the ear pieces into his ears. The classical music again becomes profound.

INT. FARMHOUSE MORNING

We see Maryann holding her new born son. She contentedly holds the baby near her cheek. The classical music follows the new mother.

MARYANN
I want to tell you about your father. He was a good man.

Doc and Kate look on the scene.

KATE
What kind of world will that child live in?

DOC

Who can say... But At times of great
anguish, saints can be born and heros can
be made.

EXT.OUTSIDE DEPARTMENT OF REEDUCATION MORNING

We see a waiting car. The driver is standing by an open trunk. Seth walks out the door with Mystery man following him. Seth walks to the waiting car and places his briefcase carefully into the trunk. The driver shuts the trunk and opens Seth the door.

Mystery man hands over the suits. Seth enters the car and carefully hangs his suits. The driver shuts the door. The car drives from the curb as the Mystery man looks on.

INT. CAR

Seth rests his head on the back of the seat as the music washes over him.

FADE OUT